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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4279
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6283
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3955
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3814
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4527
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4424
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1496
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000234

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB
COMMERCE FOR DSTARKS/EHOUSE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/23/2020
TAGS: [BTIQ](#) [EINV](#) [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [SENV](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP PROJECT UNDER
WAY

REF: A. 09 ASHGABAT 154
[1](#)B. 09 ASHGABAT 1331

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Reed Curran. Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

[1](#)1. (C) A U.S. company operating in Turkmenistan reached a milestone on February 18-19 when it began work on an environmental cleanup project near Hazar (formerly Cheleken) on the Caspian Sea (Ref A). Resource Analytics, a subsidiary of Global Environmental Science Technologies, had signed a contract with the Turkmen Government to clean up the area around Hazar about one year ago. The work will begin with the clean up of an oil-polluted lake, and then move to the tar pits located south of the city.

[1](#)2. (C) The country manager for Resource Analytics reported that the contract gives his company a 70-30 split of the profits until it has earned enough to recover its investment. From that point forward, the split will be 50-50. The U.S. company almost has raised \$30 million to purchase the equipment for the cleanup. The Turkmen Government was not willing to cover any of the cost of the equipment. However, the country manager said that the oil-soaked sand near Hazar, the legacy of decades of oil spills, contain 80 percent oil. He estimated that the value of recovered oil would total \$100 million, so the company would get a good return on its investment. (NOTE: For comparison, the country manager told us that the Alberta tar sands contain 30 percent oil. END NOTE) According to the country manager, Resource Analytics would be able to ship its share of the oil through one of the pipelines going to Russia or across the Caspian Sea.

[1](#)3. (C) COMMENT: The country manager had previously told us that negotiating for this project was a long, trying process. It seems that the company's efforts have paid off, if its technology works as planned. Concerning crude oil export routes from Turkmenistan, the company's options include shipment by tanker to Azerbaijan. END COMMENT

